

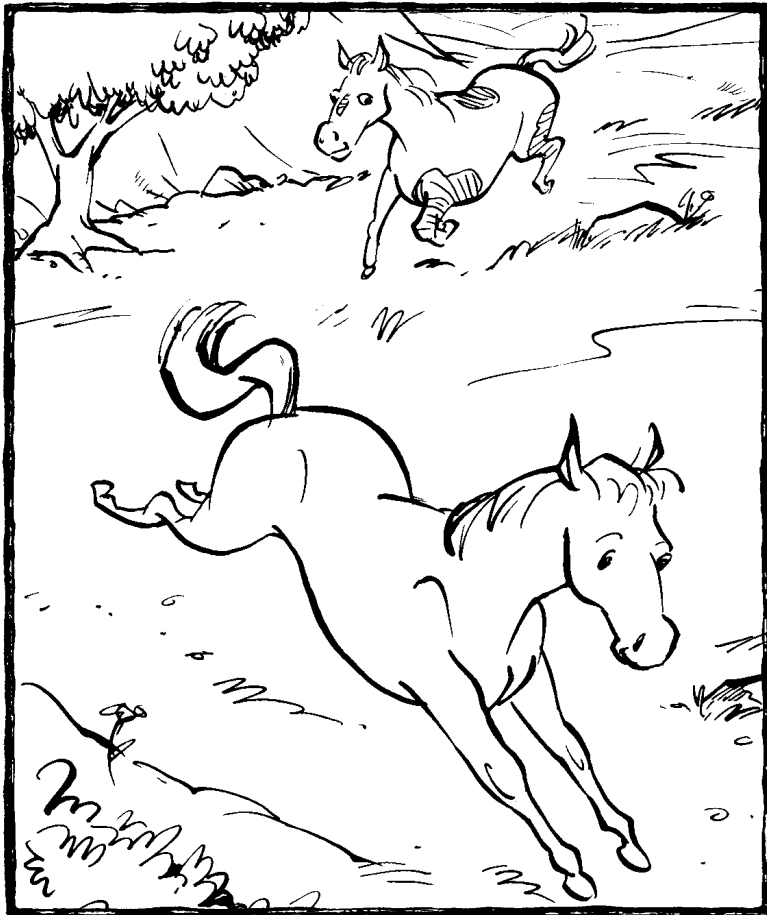
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Chico Sees a Ghost

A Reading A-Z Read-Aloud Book

Long O • Word Count: 570

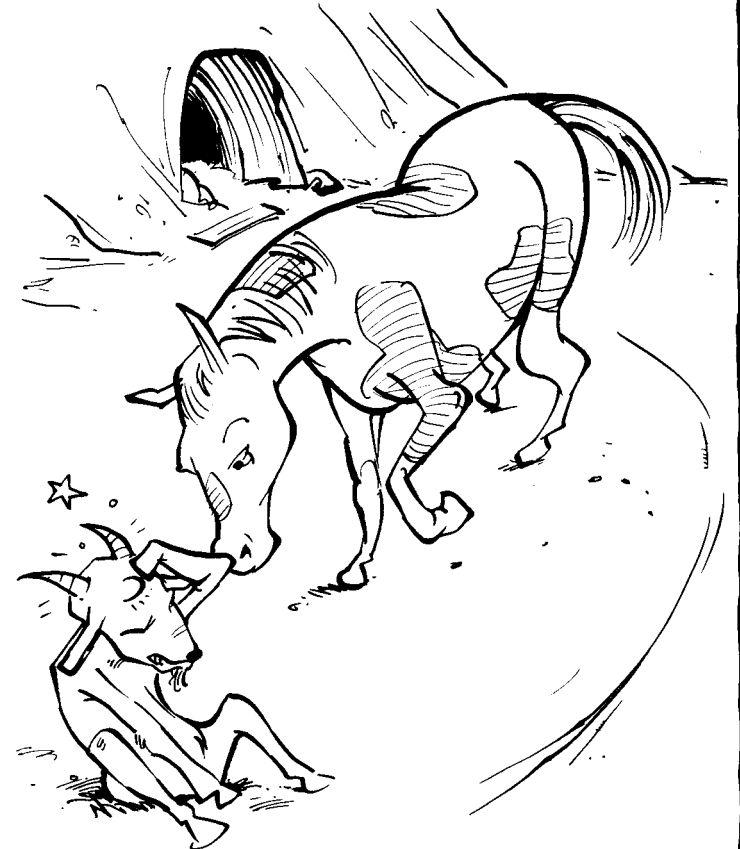


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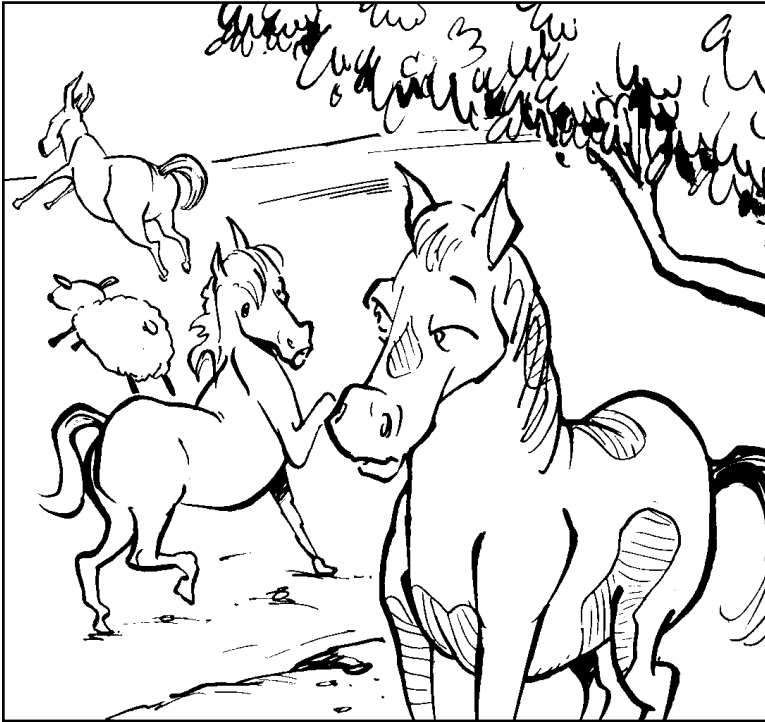
Chico Sees a Ghost



Written by Dolores Kleinholz
Illustrated by A. Spencer

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WORDS USED IN THIS BOOK

High-frequency words:

1-100 a, about, all, and, are, as, at, away, but, by, came, can, down, for, from, go, had, he, him, his, I, if, in, is, it, like, me, my, no, not, of, one, out, said, she, so, than, that, the, their, them, then, there, to, too, was, were, what, where, who, with, would, you

101-200 could, help, into, off, ran, saw, under, went

Long /o/ words:

so, ago, Chico, pinto, Sofia, rolling, slope, bone, slower, over, willow, Otis, goat, jokes, go, slowpoke, potato, nose, don't, stones, hoping, boasted, boldest, posed, though, hero, Alonzo, groaned, boast, bold, vote, Kokomo, goldmine, gold, froze, old, ghosts, gnomes, trolls', closed, no, cold, lonely, show, moment, oak, road, bolting, whoa, oh, moaning, groaning, JoJo, glowing, floating, Josie, going, hoping, close, toes, poked, hole, hello, echoes, okay, noticed, overhead, woke, told, low, know

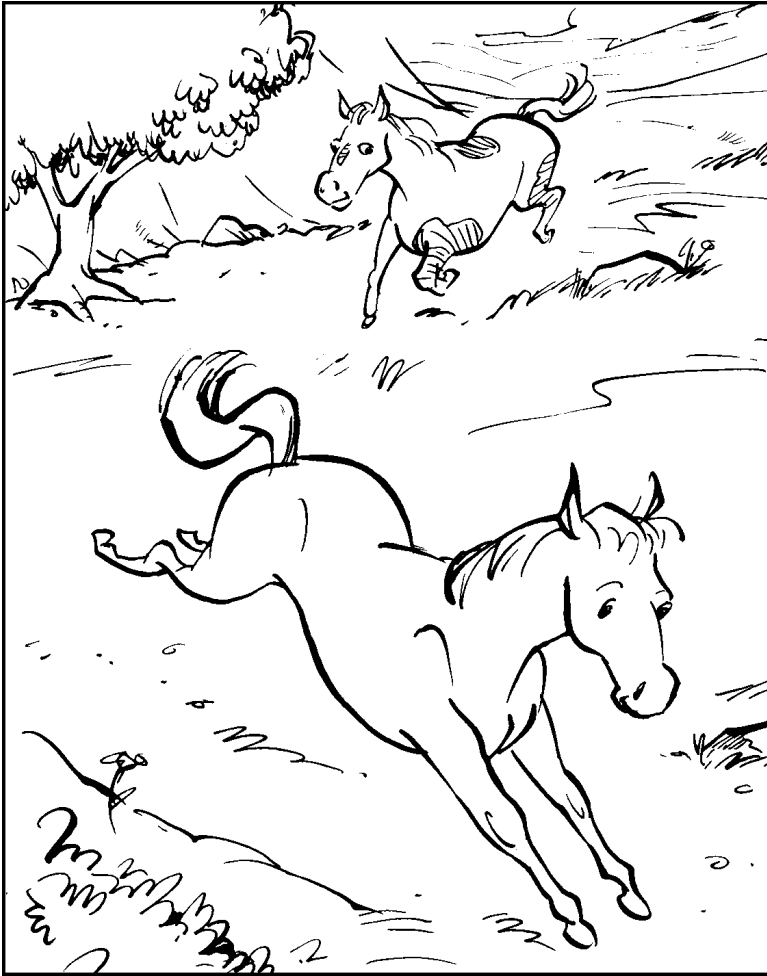
Chico Sees a Ghost
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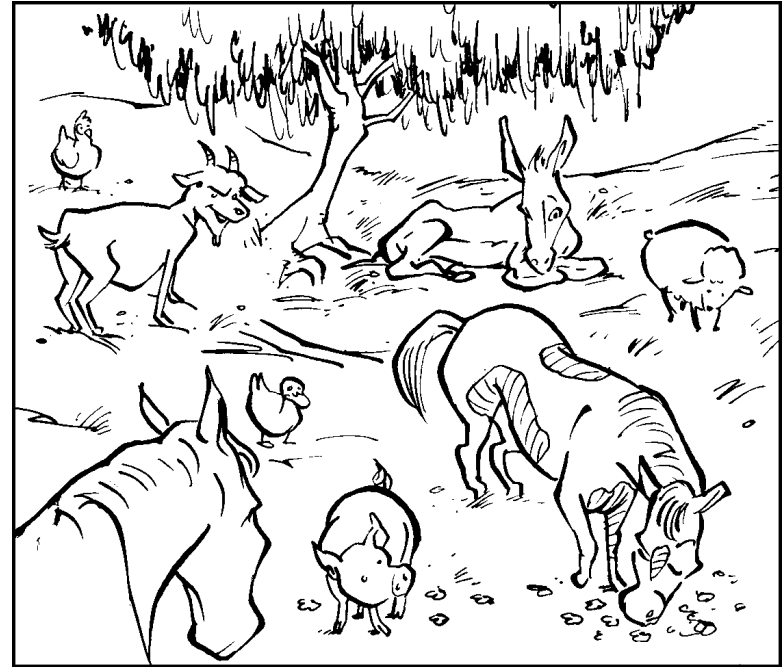
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Not so long ago, Chico the pinto pony and his friend, Sofia, were rolling and running along a sunny slope. Chico had been born with a too-small bone in one leg, so he ran slower than everyone else.



Over by a willow tree, Otis the goat was making jokes about Chico to his friends. “Go faster, Slowpoke!” Otis shouted. “You’re slower than a potato bug!”

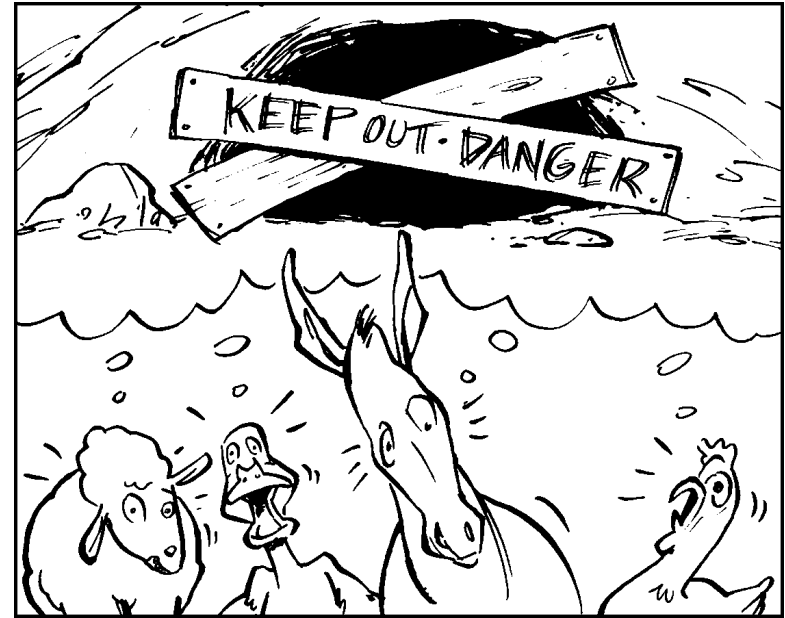
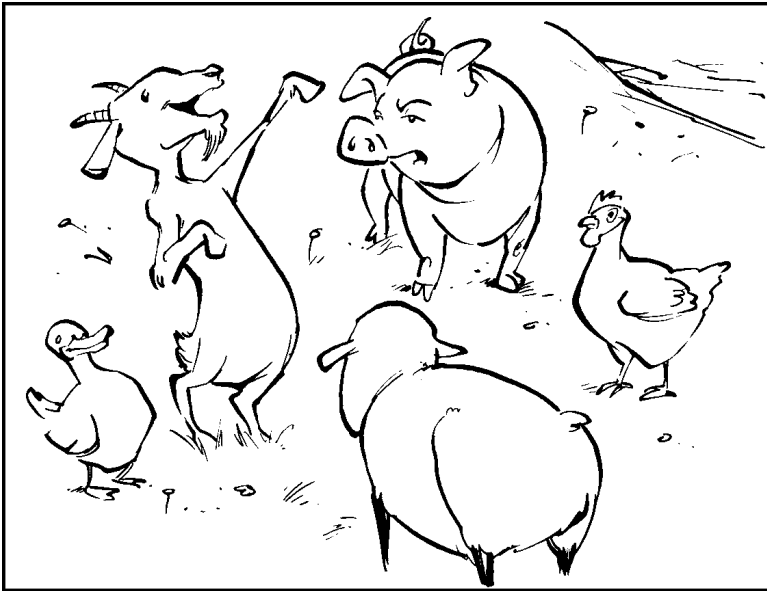
Chico ignored Otis. Instead, Chico rubbed his nose over the warm grass.

“Don’t call him Slowpoke!” said Sofia. “His name is Chico.” She kicked stones towards Otis, hoping to scare him off.

“Stones don’t scare me!” Otis boasted.
“I’m the bravest, boldest goat who ever lived!”

Otis posed like a statue, as though he were a hero. Alonzo the pig groaned—he was tired of hearing Otis boast about being so brave and bold.

“If you’re so bold, Otis,” Alonzo said, “then I vote for you to go into the Kokomo goldmine and bring back a gold nugget!”



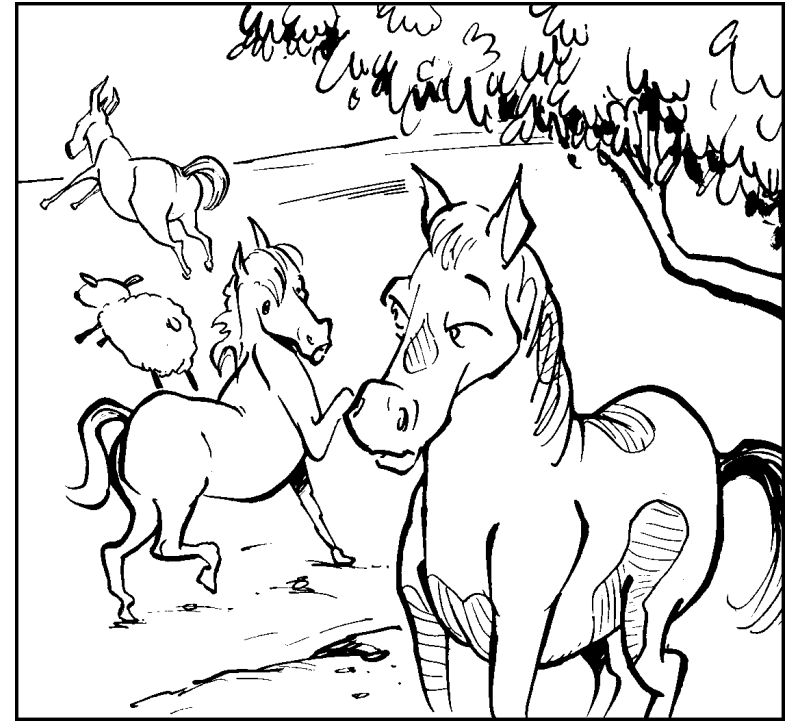
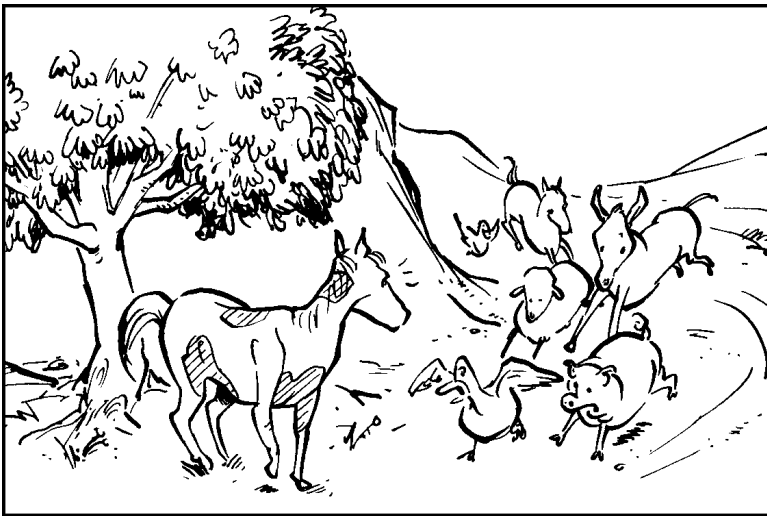
Everyone froze. The old Kokomo goldmine was haunted by ghosts, gnomes, and trolls . . . at least that’s what all the animals said. It had been closed down long ago and no one ever went into that cold, lonely place.

“That doesn’t scare me!” Otis boasted.
“I’m still the bravest, boldest goat who ever lived! Tomorrow, you can follow me over to the Kokomo goldmine and I’ll show you!”

So the next morning, all the animals followed Otis to the Kokomo goldmine. Chico lagged far behind because of his short leg. He rested for a moment under an oak tree.

But before Chico could cross to the road leading to the mine, his animal friends came bolting past him, running as if a ghost were chasing them.

“Whoa, why are you all running away?” said Chico.



“Oh, oh! I heard the ghost moaning and groaning!” shouted JoJo the donkey.

“I saw the ghost glowing and floating over Otis!” yelled Josie the sheep. Who would tell Chico what was really going on?

“Chico, there really is a ghost!” Sofia shouted. “A ghost got Otis and trapped him in the Kokomo goldmine forever!”

The animals dashed back to the willow tree, hoping the Kokomo ghost wasn't close behind nipping at their toes.

But what about Otis? He was still trapped in the Kokomo goldmine with no one to help him.

"There's no such thing as ghosts!" said Chico. "Otis might be hurt!"

So Chico charged down the road as fast as his slow leg could take him until he reached the lonely Kokomo goldmine.



He poked his nose into the cold hole of the mine.

"Hello?" Chico called, hearing the lonely echoes through the goldmine. "Otis, where are you? Are you okay?"

Then he noticed Otis crumpled beside a large stone, groaning. A dirty, yellowed rag flapped from a wooden beam overhead.





Chico rolled Otis out into the warm sunshine and poked him with his nose until he got up. Then Otis told Chico the story of what happened to him in the Kokomo goldmine.

“I hit my head on a low beam and fell over. I hoped my friends would come and help me, but they all ran away,” Otis explained. “There’s no ghost. It was only me groaning.”

Otis grinned at Chico gratefully. “I’m sorry about being such a big phony. You’re the fastest, boldest hero I know, Chico, and I’ll never call you Slowpoke again!”

